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Job vacancies continue to fall in August

Media Release

Released 28/09/2023

Source: [Job Vacancies, Australia, August 2023](#)

There were 390,000 job vacancies in August 2023, down 38,000 from May, according to new figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Kate Lamb, ABS head of labour statistics, said: "The number of job vacancies fell by around 9 per cent between May and August, and has dropped by 18 per cent from the peak in May 2022.

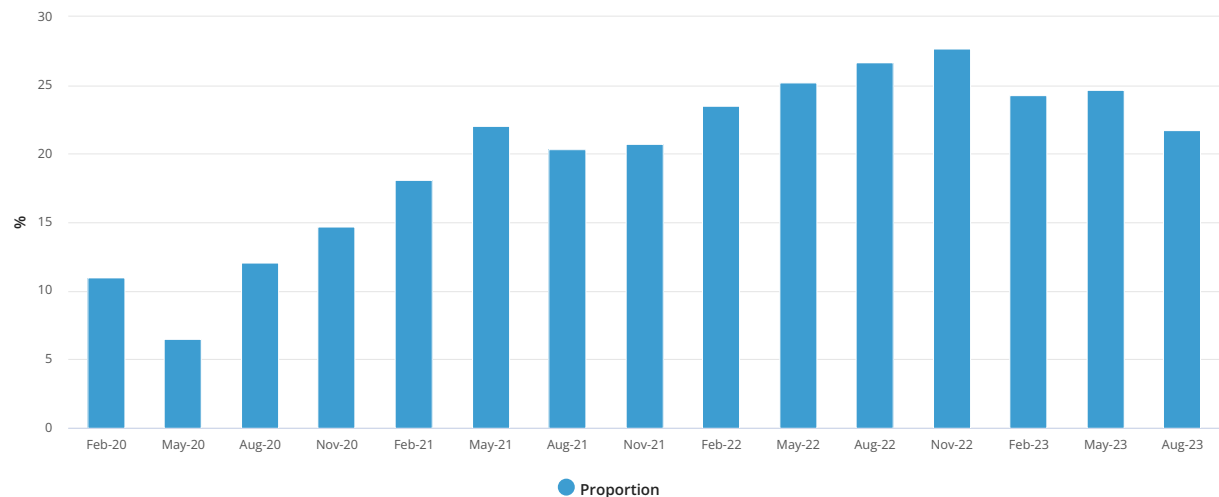
"Demand for workers eased again in August for the fifth straight quarter. This coincided with an increase in the [unemployment rate \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release\)](#) over the three months to August.

"While these indicators are no longer at historical levels, both are still showing that the labour market is tighter than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Job vacancies were still around 72 per cent higher than they were in February 2020. That's still around 160,000 more jobs that employers are looking for people to fill, as part of a pool of almost 400,000 vacancies.

"The percentage of businesses reporting at least one vacancy also fell from 25 per cent in May to 22 per cent in August. However, this was still double what it was in February 2020 at 11 per cent," Ms Lamb said.

Proportion of businesses reporting vacancies, Australia



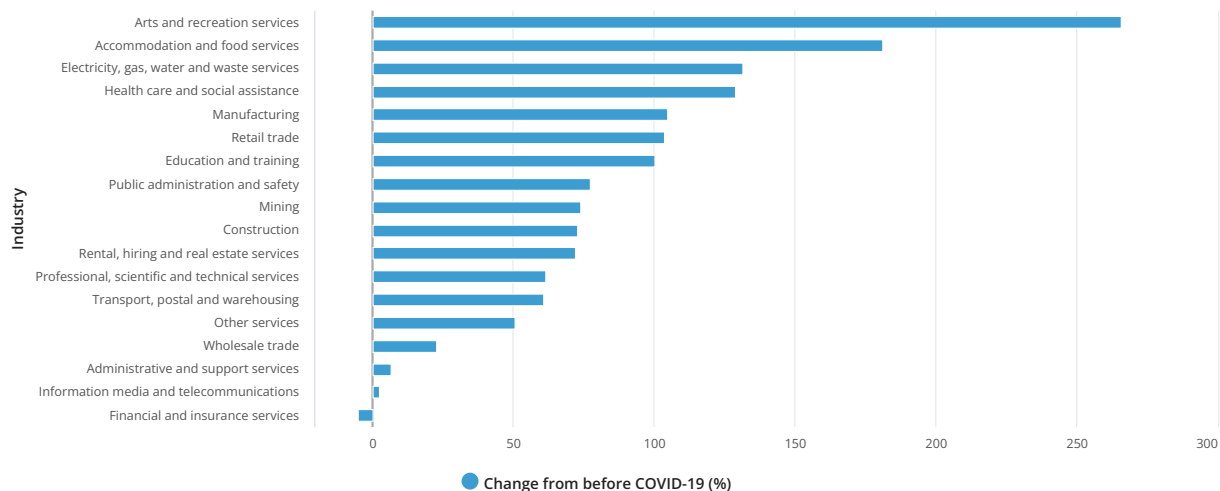
Job vacancies in both public and private sectors declined over the three months to August. Public sector vacancies fell by 3,000 (-6 per cent) while the private sector fell by 35,000 (-9 per cent).

The Australian Capital Territory saw the largest percentage drop in job vacancies (-8 per cent) while Queensland was the only state to see growth (4 per cent).

Financial and insurance services showed the largest drop in job vacancies (-15 per cent) this quarter. This is also the only industry to now have vacancies lower than they were in February 2020.

Some industries experienced growth in August. The largest increase in vacancies was in Retail trade which rose by 19 per cent. While most industries declined over this quarter, job vacancies in many industries remained high compared with pre-COVID levels. This was particularly pronounced in customer-facing industries, including Arts and recreation services, and Accommodation and food services.

Job vacancies, change from February 2020 to August 2023, industry,



The ABS would like to thank businesses in Australia for their continued support in responding to our surveys.

Media notes

- When reporting ABS data you must attribute the Australian Bureau of Statistics (or the ABS) as the source.
- For the purposes of this publication, 'pre-pandemic' refers to the February 2020 Job Vacancies, which was before the main impact of restrictions on businesses.
- Job vacancies in this media release refer to seasonally adjusted data for Australia and sector level. All other estimates are original series.
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